



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Apalachicola Ranger District
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Bristol, FL 32321
850/643-2282

Wakulla Ranger District
57 Taff Drive
Crawfordville, FL 32327
850/926-3561

File Code: 1950

Date: November 16, 2009

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Forest Service is pleased to announce the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Bradwell Game Farm for a 30-day Notice and Comment period. The EA is available by request or on the internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/florida>.

Located in the Bloxham area of the Apalachicola Ranger District south of State Highway 20, the Bradwell Game Farm timber sale was identified on the National Forests in Florida five-year action plan. The Forest Service has assigned an Interdisciplinary team to this project to begin evaluating the proposed treatments. These evaluations will produce archeological, engineering, silviculture and biological reports.

The Bradwell Game Farm analysis area is within Forest Plan Management Area 3.1 (Special interest area). The purpose of the proposed actions is to restore and interpret the area to early 1900's era conditions, improve gopher tortoise habitat, and improve forest health and sustainability. The proposed actions are needed to move toward the desired future conditions set forth in the National Forests in Florida Revised Land and Resource Management (Forest) Plan 1999. We are requesting your comments on this proposal.

In the proposed action, there are three stands (108 acres) ready for 1st thinning, four stands (41 acres) ready for an intermediate thinning, and three stands (21 acres) to be clearcut and returned to historic wildlife openings. In addition to these stands, stand 5 (40 acres) will be clearcut, treated with herbicide, planted with longleaf, and have ground cover restoration. Stand 3 has five acres of loblolly that has seeded in on the edges that will be removed. Stand 31 (27 acres) is a stand that was cut over in the past and has been taken over by laurel oak, sparse loblolly and sparkleberry. This stand will have the overstory removed by a combination of biomass, firewood cutting and treated with herbicide. When the hardwoods have been controlled, the stand will be planted with longleaf and have ground cover restoration. Stand 19 (76 acres) was mixed loblolly and bottomland hardwood, that was underplanted with loblolly in 1970. The stand will be thinned to 50 BA, favoring hardwood over pine, with scattered openings that will be planted or seeded with desirable hardwood. The number of stands to treat is not expected to change significantly from this estimate at the time of implementation.

Connected with these actions would be the: minor reconstruction of approximately 1.49 miles of level 3 roads, 1.5 miles of level 2 roads and purchaser maintenance of approximately 2.05 miles of level 2 roads at the time of the timber sale. There will be the following temporary developments for the timber sale: establishment of approximately .5 miles of temporary road, several skids trails and log landings; all of which will be closed after the timber sale operations are complete.



Also proposed are archeological interpretation sites with kiosks and interpretive signs. These will be accessed by a mixed use hiking and horseback riding trail. A primitive canoe launch and parking area will be constructed on the scenic Ochlockonee River.

Based on of the proposed action, the use of herbicide will necessitate the development of an additional alternate which does not include herbicide. The Forest Service will evaluate these three alternatives: 1) Proposed action and 2) No herbicide alternative (handtools) and 3) No action. No other issues, which might lead to the development of additional alternatives, have been identified. The design criteria of this project will include all applicable standards and guidelines from the 1999 Land and Resource Management Plan, and other routine Best Management Practices designed to reduce potential environmental impacts. In addition, the proposed action will be designed to avoid sensitive areas, access limitations, heritage resources and Federally Listed species, which might be adversely affected by this project.

I'm asking that you provide us with any information, concerns or questions you might have related to this project by 30 days after the legal notice runs in the Calhoun Liberty Journal. Your comments need to be as specific as possible and contain the following:

- (1) Name, address, email address, and (if possible) telephone number;
- (2) Title of the proposal on which comment is being submitted; and
- (3) Specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that you believe the Responsible Official should consider in reaching the decision.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Written comments on this proposal should be sent to: Marcus Beard, District Ranger, 57 Taff Drive, Crawfordville, FL 32327 (850-926-3561). Comments may also be mailed electronically in a common digital format to comments-southern-florida-apalachicola@fs.fed.us For further information please contact Sonja Durrwachter at 850-643-2282 ext. 1511.

Sincerely,

MARCUS A. BEARD
District Ranger
Apalachicola National Forest

Attachments

Table 1. Stands with Commercial Timber Removal Alternative A

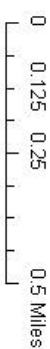
Compartment	Stand	Acres	Type of Cut	Volume (ccf)
113	3	5	Removal Cut	15
113	5	40	Clearcut	534
113	6	32	Row Thin	281
113	7	37	Row Thin	268
113	8	5	Clearcut for wildlife opening	121
113	10	39	Row Thin	481
113	11	6	Clearcut for wildlife opening	157
113	12	10	Clearcut for wildlife opening	165
113	13	7	Thin from Below	65
113	15	8	Thin From Below	45
113	16	9	Thin From Below	167
113	18	5	Thin from Below	94
113	19	70	Thin from Below, Favor Hardwoods	460
113	20	12	Thin from Below	49
113	31	27	Removal Cut	13
Total		312		2914

Table 2. Cultural Treatments for Alternative A

Compartment	Stand	Acres	Cultural Treatment
113	3	5	Herbicide (Triclopyr or Hexazinone) treatment of residual hardwood, plant or seed native groundcover if needed
113	5	40	Herbicide (Triclopyr or Hexazinone), burn, plant longleaf, plant or seed native groundcover, herbicide release
113	6	32	Biomass removal, burn
113	7	37	Biomass removal, burn
113	8	5	Burn, Plant or seed native groundcover
113	10	39	Biomass removal, burn
113	11	6	Burn, Plant or seed native groundcover
113	12	10	Burn, Plant or seed native groundcover
113	13	7	Biomass removal, burn
113	14	4	Herbicide hardwoods (Triclopyr or Hexazinone), burn
113	15	8	Biomass removal, burn
113	16	9	Biomass removal, burn
113	18	5	Biomass removal, burn
113	19	70	Biomass removal, Herbicide (Triclopyr) undesirable hardwoods, plant or seed openings with hard mast species, release with herbicide (Triclopyr)
113	20	12	Biomass removal, burn
113	31	27	Biomass and firewood removal, herbicide (Triclopyr or Hexazinone), burn, plant longleaf, plant or seed native groundcover, herbicide release
Total		316	

Bradwell Game Farm Analysis Area Compartment 113 Alternative A

- Legend**
- Trailway**
 --- Trailway
 --- Trailway
- Features**
 Canoe Launch
 Culvert to repair
 Culvert to replace
 Footbridge to construct
 Trailhead
 Wildlife viewing
- Bradwell Roadwork**
 Water
 Maintenance
 Reconstruction
 State Highway
 System Road
- Stands**
 Biomass hardwoods, cut loblolly, herbicide
 Clear cut, recreate wildlife opening
 Clear cut, herbicide, plant longleaf/wetgrass
 Hardwood control
 None
 Remove loblolly, gopher tortoise hab., imp.
 Row/Thin to 50 BA
 Thin to 50 BA
 Thin to 50 BA, favor bottomland hardwood, plant
 Thin to 50 BA, hardwood control



S. Durrwechter
10/05/09

